

# 902nd EO briefs White House agency

by Tina Miles  
902nd MI Group

What do the Air Force Academy, Guantanamo Bay and combat roles for female Soldiers have in common? They are all hot topics in today's news.

With this in mind, Equal Opportunity awareness is at the top of the list within most military and government agencies. The White House Communications Agency, Bolling Air Force Base, Va., is no exception and personally invited Sgt. 1st Class Charlotte J. Montavon, EO advisor, 902nd Military Intelligence Group, Fort Meade, Md., to give an EO briefing to their Logistics Division, June 7.

The White House Communications Agency provides communication services to numerous offices and agencies within Washington D.C. and receives its direction from the White House Military Office. As with all military services and agencies that support the U.S., EO awareness is very high in priority at the Agency.

Master Sgt. Danny R. Crisp, senior enlisted advisor, Logistics Division, White House Communications Agency, said that he was tasked by his superior to get a full EO brief for his personnel. Lt Col. Richard F. McCusker, logistics director, said he wanted one that covered every aspect of EO, and Crisp knew just the person to fulfill that mission. "Being a former member of the



photo by Tina Miles

**Sgt. 1st Class Charlotte J. Montavon gives a brief to the White House Communications Agency, at Bolling Air Force Base, June 7.**

902nd MI Group, I knew of Montavon's exceptional briefing capabilities and invited her to speak. She didn't let us down."

Montavon was asked to give a full EO briefing covering all the topics, from discrimination and harassment to sexism and extremism. Crisp commented that her briefing was informative and several audience members left more aware of EO than before they arrived.

"Most people think they know EO, until you start asking questions," Montavon said. "Then they realize they aren't quite as aware as they originally thought."

While covering the areas of concern regarding discrimination, one audience member commented, "Aren't race and color the same thing?" "That's what most people think," replied

Montavon, as she pointed out the distinction between the two, saying that within race you have (shades of) color.

Another example of misconception was demonstrated by a slide displaying a popular tattoo of a spider web. She pointed out that most people get these tattoos without understanding the meaning behind them; in this case the spider web represents a prison tattoo received when a racist has spent time in jail. "Most people get these tattoos just because they think they look cool," Montavon said. Later they find out what they really symbolize.

Montavon closed ensuring each audience member knew the proper procedures to handle the issues and how to report them appropriately.